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322

GAO Rejection of Bill In Shipping Officer's Furniture Overruled

The U. S. Court of Claims yesterday ordered the Government to pay a Washington Grove (Md.) Coast Guard reserve officer \$301.21 for shipping his furniture home after he was mustered out of the service.

The officer, Samuel W. Jensch, was turned down by the General Accounting Office in July, 1947, when he asked reimbursement for moving his household effects. Some of the articles were shipped from Minneapolis, Minn., and others from Arlington Village, to Washington Grove.

Not Brought Into Service.

The Government asserted Ensign Jensch was not entitled to repayment because when enlisting in 1942 he did not "bring into the service" his household effects, but rather left them in Minneapolis.

His belongings in Arlington Village, where he set up a temporary home, were also considered in the same light since the officer had left them there while stationed at several posts on the East Coast.

Judge Samuel E. Whitaker, however, differed with the Controller General, who contended the serviceman must actually bring his effects to a station to be entitled to reimbursement for shipping expenses.

Must Be His.

Judge Whitaker held regulations governing transportation of military personnel household articles were drafted to assure merely that the goods moved are the effects of the serviceman and not some one else.

"The regulation does not say that the officer must have been using his household effects while he was in service," Judge Whitaker wrote. "If he had used them at any time before the shipment, he is entitled . . . to the allowance."